

COMMUNITY SERVICES AND LICENSING COMMITTEE

1 OCTOBER 2020

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Report Title	COMMISSIONING OF STRATEGY FOR LEISURE AND WELLBEING PROVISION IN STROUD DISTRICT			
Purpose of Report	To consider and approve the tender process for the commissioning of industry specialists to produce a Strategy for Leisure and Wellbeing in Stroud District addressing the future provision of community leisure and wellbeing provision across the district.			
Decision(s)	<p>The Committee RESOLVES:</p> <p>a) To approve the tender brief to commission industry experts to carry out a review, make recommendations and produce a draft Strategy for Leisure in Stroud District.</p> <p>b) To DELEGATE authority to the Strategic Director of Communities in consultation with the Chair of Community Services and Licensing Committee, to oversee the commissioning of suitably qualified expertise to undertake the works and report back to this committee on progress and bring the final draft strategy to this committee.</p>			
Consultation and Feedback	Strategic Leadership Team Group Leaders Benchmarking with other Local Authorities			
Report Author	Keith Gerrard, Strategic Director of Communities Email: Keith.gerrard@stroud.gov.uk			
Options	The preparation of studies on the future of leisure provision in the district and more specifically, the future of Stratford Park, is optional. However, a better understanding of the wider context will allow better-informed decision-making, and in particular, agreeing a long term investment and management plan for Stratford Park with partners and contractors is a Corporate Delivery Plan action.			
Background Papers	None			
Appendices	Appendix A – Leisure Review Tender Document			
Implications (further details at the end of the report)	Financial	Legal	Equality	Environmental
	Yes	No	No	No

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** In January 2020 Community Services and Licencing Committee approved the use of reserves for the commissioning of industry experts to undertake a study to advise on the future provision of community leisure centre facilities in the District, create an overarching vision and plan for the future of the leisure, recreation, cultural, health and wellbeing uses in Stratford Park and advise on options for the future of the current Stratford Park Leisure Centre;
- 1.2** The Committee agreed to delegate authority to the Strategic Director of Communities and/or Head of Community Services, in consultation with the Chair of Community Services and Licensing, to oversee the preparation of a brief for the above studies and bring it to Committee for approval.
- 1.3** At the same meeting it was agreed to allow time for the above studies to be completed and action plans formulated, to approve an extension to Sports and Leisure Management (SLM) to continue running Stratford Park Leisure Centre for the specified additional period of 3 years up to 31 October 2024.

2. THE FUTURE OF LEISURE PROVISION IN THE DISTRICT: STRATEGY FOR LEISURE IN STROUD

- 2.1** In accordance with the decision of this committee in January 2020, this report presents the brief to undertake the review to address the future leisure provision in the District through the production of a draft Strategy for Leisure in Stroud. It is attached at Appendix 1. It recognises the issues considered by the committee and those raised as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic and the future delivery of leisure provision. It seeks to commission appropriately experienced expertise to undertake this work including recommendations which provide:
 1. A clear overarching framework for the future provision of community leisure in the district to meet the needs of the population for the next twenty years; a modern offer reflecting the changing health and wellbeing and expectations of our growing and developing population.
 2. Options for the future of the current Stratford Park Leisure Centre and The Pulse Leisure Centre, including whether provision is fit for purpose to include its physical condition and serviceability, options for new or refurbished facilities and potential locations. This should include consideration of funding and investment options.
 3. The creation of a vision for the future of leisure, recreation, culture and health and wellbeing in Stratford Park as a whole. Within a detailed delivery plan this needs to take into account the historical context, environmental value and its range of use including the contribution of Stratford Park Leisure Centre, The Museum in the Park and the wider park environment.
 4. Management arrangements for leisure service delivery at the District's two principal leisure facilities, including an options appraisal with cost benefit analysis.

- 2.2** The tender brief places an emphasis on the importance of providing specific recommendations for work and supporting these with costed actions plans for delivery. This is to ensure that the draft strategy, as well as presenting a strong and coherent vision also provides the structure and direction for its delivery.
- 2.3** The District Council has a vital role as an enabler and facilitator as well as a deliverer of provision. The importance of partnership and cross sector collaboration needs to be reflected in the approach adopted to research, consultation and development of the strategy.
- 2.4** Taking a whole district approach, the review must recognise the importance of interdisciplinary delivery now and into the future. It should consider the social and financial value of preventative investment to support people for longer in good health. This will include alignment with, for example, public health, adult social care and local community health and wellbeing programmes.
- 2.5** Over the next two decades the importance of a holistic approach to whole life wellbeing is likely to become more important. The Stroud District needs to be able to position itself as a leader in this work; building it into our vision, and our partnership with health and social care providers.
- 2.6** This will also have an impact on the design and management of community facilities. Co design, location and funding based on community need can also yield financial benefit to primary care providers. Their potential contribution to developing health, wellbeing and leisure provision in the District is significant.
- 2.7** It will be important that recent related assessment work is properly recognised and built on. The Open Space, Green Infrastructure, Sport and Recreation Study (2019) provides a comprehensive and robust facility and leisure needs assessment. This should now be built on with specific recommendations to meet this need with well specified and managed provision.

3. TIMETABLE

- 3.1** Following consideration of tenders and contract award, it is anticipated that the commission will begin in November 2020. The committee will be provided with updates of the work at its next and subsequent meetings and opportunity to consider and contribute to it throughout the drafting process. It is scheduled for completion in July 2021.

4. IMPLICATIONS

4.1 Financial Implications

The Council has committed the Culture, Arts and Leisure Reserve to fund the Strategy for Leisure and Wellbeing. The costs of commissioning experts will therefore be met from this reserve.

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4.2 Legal Implications

There are no specific legal implications arising from the recommendation in this report. The tender document has been prepared in consultation with a procurement colleague and any tender process will need to be carried out in accordance with the law and council procedures.

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4.3 Equality Implications

There are no specific equality implications arising from the recommendation in this report though any review of this kind will necessarily need to take account of the requirements of residents with protected characteristics with the District

4.4 Environmental Implications

There are no specific environmental implications arising from the recommendation in this report though any review of this kind will necessarily need to take account of the requirements of the council's environmental priorities and in particular CN2030.